

Academic, Community, and Political Engagement: Crafting Pandemic Preparedness Policies for Vulnerable Families

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BACKGROUND

Vulnerable Families

- Families experience vulnerability under three overarching domains:
 - Economic need
 - Physical need
 - Social need
- Community-level services help families navigate their specific needs in a proximate context.
- Social vulnerability is exacerbated when families are prevented from comprehensively accessing services needed for daily function.

Evidence-based Practice in the Community

- Evidence-based interventions integrates patient centredness, expertise, and clinical evidence to provide the safest, most effective services to families.
- Yet, there is a disconnect between research collection and analysis, and subsequently translation of evidence-based practices into community-level services.

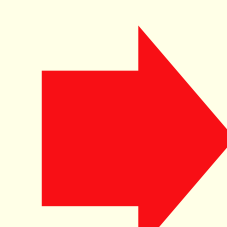
Pandemic Preparedness and Community Organizations

- COVID-19 has highlighted pre-existing knowledge mobilization challenges
- Service continuity planning is difficult for community organizations to engage in, as so many programs are traditionally offered in-person
- The recency of COVID-19 and impacts, combined with slow knowledge mobilization, implies evidence-based pandemic preparedness is not yet available for community organizations.

METHODOLOGY

Research Question: What barriers have you encountered throughout COVID-19 that have impeded the delivery of evidence-based services in the community? How would your organization ideally like to interact with government to address these barriers?

Literature Review



Focus Groups
Using the Nominal
Group Technique

RESULTS

Policy Category

Reduced Revenue Streams

Transition to Online Service Delivery

Inadequate Communication and Collaboration with Government

Person-centred Policies and Programs

Reciprocal Partnerships

Policy Issues

Funding and grant focus, funding structure, income loss

Access to hardware and software, digital literacy, staff capacity

Insufficient guidelines, lack of sector specific guidelines, inconsistencies between health and regulatory bodies

Policy Solutions

Equity lens for policies and programs, evidence-based policies and programs

Intragovernmental communication, sector alignment, partnerships between academia, policymakers, and community organizations

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

Education and Consultation with Community Organizations
There is a need for provincial leadership around hazard awareness, technological assistance, and staff training

Subsidies and Grant Provision for Community-Based Research
Shift focus to long-term sector sustainability and create evidence-based programs that promote client outcomes

A Formalized, Local Network of Researchers, Community Organizations, and Policymakers for faster knowledge mobilization